

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Fufang Zha et al.
Serial No: 10/774,041
Confirmation No: 4995
Filed: February 6, 2004
For: METHOD OF CLEANING MEMBRANE MODULES
Examiner: Krishnan S. Menon
Art Unit: 1723

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a)

The undersigned hereby certifies that this document is being electronically filed in accordance with § 1.6(a)(4), on the 4th day of February, 2008.

/Nicole A. Palmer/

Nicole A. Palmer

Commissioner for Patents

RESPONSE TO NOTIFICATION OF NON-COMPLIANT
APPEAL BRIEF UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 41.37

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to MPEP § 1205.03, this paper is filed in response to the Notification of Non-Compliant Appeal Brief mailed on January 2, 2008. Section V of the Appeal Brief originally filed on March 28, 2007 has been modified to reference Applicant's specification by page and line number in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 41.37(c)(1)(v).

No fee is believed to be required for the filing of this appeal brief amendment.

V. SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER (37 C.F.R. § 41.37(c)(1)(v))

Aspects and examples of the claimed subject matter are generally directed to methods for cleaning membrane modules. In one example, a method for cleaning a membrane filtration module is disclosed. The module comprises at least one membrane located in a feed-containing vessel, the membrane comprising a permeable wall. The method generally involves steps of conducting a filtration operation wherein a feed is applied to a first side of the permeable wall and a filtrate is withdrawn from a second side of the permeable wall, suspending the filtration operation, and performing a cleaning process on the permeable wall to dislodge a contaminant therefrom into a liquid surrounding the membrane. The method further involves steps of forming a gas-containing region on the first side of the permeable wall; sealing the feed-containing vessel, pressurizing a gas within the gas-containing region, and opening the feed-containing vessel to atmosphere. The gas-containing region expands and produces a sweep of the feed-containing vessel to remove the liquid containing the dislodged contaminant. (See page 6, line 17 to page 8, line 6 of Applicant's specification as originally filed.)

Respectfully submitted,
Fufang Zha et al., *Applicant*

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